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DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS, HOFER & BERNARD

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Date: June 15, 2005
To: Examiner Arden Sperty - Art Unit 1771
Fax No.: 703-872-9306
From: Gregory N. Clements
No. of Pages: 8 (including cover sheet)
Re: Patent Application Serial No. 10/714,132
Our File No.: Docket 3748

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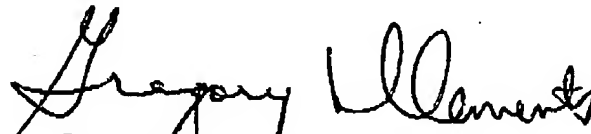
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Dear Examiner Sperty:

Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment prior to the issuance of the first Office Action. This original of this Amendment is being forwarded this date via Express Mail No. EV645600292US.

Respectfully,

DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS, HOFER & BERNARD


Gregory N. Clements

GNC/nb

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATIONS

Art Unit: 1771
Examiner: Sperty, Arden B.
Applicant: Sheri L. McGuire et al
Serial No: 10/714,132
Filed: November 14, 2003
Title: Needlepunch Flame Retardant Nonwovens

Charlotte, North Carolina
June 15, 2005

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the issuance of a first Office Action, kindly amend the claims as follows:
Please amend Claims 6 – 10 and 15 as follows and add the following new claims 28 – 33.

Amendments to the Claims begin on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on Page 7 of this paper.